



INFORMATION SHEET 2025/26
Freie Universität Berlin / Law Department
for exchange students and partner universities from overseas
(last update: October 2024)

<i>Unique things about our institution</i>	Freie Universität Berlin is one of the few German ‘Universities of Excellence’. This title was awarded for its concept of an International Network University.
<i>Address of the Law Department</i>	Van’t-Hoff-Str. 8 / Boltzmannstr. 3 D-14195 Berlin
<i>Website of the Law Department</i>	http://www.jura.fu-berlin.de
<i>Location of the Law School</i>	in the district “Dahlem”, in the south western part of Berlin metro: Freie Universität Thielplatz (line U 3)
<i>Distance from the city center</i>	35 minutes by public transport
<i>Video portrait</i>	A short film on the university’s history and on its profile is available in different languages: https://av-portal.fu-berlin.de/itunesu/pk/8
<i>Student contact person at the university’s <u>Student Exchange Office</u> (in charge of application, admission and enrollment)</i>	Ms. Carmen GLEISENSTEIN Student Exchange Office Ilthisstraße 4 D – 14195 Berlin Tel.: +49 30 83 87 39 21 incoming@fu-berlin.de
<i>Student contact person at the <u>Law Department’s International Office</u> (in charge of academic issues, e.g. courses, ECTS-credits, Learning Agreements, exams, transcript of records, etc.)</i>	Mrs. Alexandra BAERENFELDT International Office at the Law Department Boltzmannstr. 3, room 1119 D – 14195 Berlin Tel.: +49 30 83 86 54 02 international-office@rewiss.fu-berlin.de
<i>Website for incoming students</i>	http://www.jura.fu-berlin.de/en/international/studierendenaustausch/incomings/index.html
<i>Period of exchange</i>	winter term and/or summer term – according to the periods agreed upon in the exchange agreements
<i>Number of exchange students</i>	Due to a rising number of incoming exchange students at Freie Universität Berlin on the one hand and capacity limits on the other hand, the number of student places, semesters and the subjects agreed upon in the exchange agreements must be adhered to.
<i>Nomination deadlines</i>	1 May for arrival in the winter term 1 November for arrival in the summer term

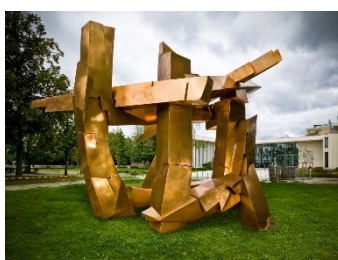
<i>Nomination procedure</i>	Exchange coordinators are kindly requested to send their nominations via e-mail to the Law Department's International Office at international-office@rewiss.fu-berlin.de . Please include: - first name, last name - gender - date of birth - nationality - exchange semester(s) - e-mail address
<i>Registration procedure</i>	Applicants must complete the online application form at https://fuberlin.moveon4.de/locallogin/5949803983fb963f532593f4/eng and upload the following document(s): - copy of passport page (the one with the photograph) - copy of B.A., M.A., LL.B., LL.M. (or other) final degrees (not necessary if applicant is an undergraduate student) - copy of the student's transcript of records Those documents should be in German or English, or accompanied by an English translation.
<i>Registration periods</i>	1 April – 31 May for arrival in the winter term 1 October – 30 November for arrival in the summer term
<i>Pre-arrival information through our online tool Distributed Campus</i>	It is vital that exchange students register at and regularly login to our online portal "Distributed Campus" www.distributed-campus.org in order to find all tasks, deadlines and documents. Students are asked by Freie Universität Berlin to register on that portal as soon as their nomination has been processed. For those starting in the winter term, this e-mail will be sent in June; for those starting in the summer term, it will be sent in December.
<i>Arrival information</i>	A pickup-service cannot be provided to exchange students upon arrival. We recommend that students use the public transport website www.bvg.de in order to plan their journey from the airport or train station to their accommodation.
<i>Enrollment</i>	Upon arrival in Berlin, we advise students to visit the Student Exchange Office (Ilthisstraße 4, 14195 Berlin, metro: Dahlem-Dorf) to finalize enrollment and to set up their FU account. Students need this account in order to register for courses and to use the computers and WiFi on campus.



<i>Lecture and examination periods</i>	<u>winter term</u> lecture period: mid-October to mid-February exam period for English-taught courses: mid-February exam period for German-taught courses: mid-February to mid-March <u>summer term</u> lecture period: mid-April to mid-July exam period for English-taught courses: mid-July exam period for German-taught courses: mid-July to mid-August details on the academic calendar: http://www.jura.fu-berlin.de/en/international/studierendenaustausch/incomings/kalender/index.html details on the exam schedule: https://www.jura.fu-berlin.de/en/international/studierendenaustausch/incomings/prueftermine/index.html
<i>Orientation weeks</i>	In the first two weeks of October and in the first two weeks of April; We advise students to arrive on time to attend the orientation program. Participation is mandatory for the study info session at the Law Department. More information is available at: http://www.jura.fu-berlin.de/en/international/studierendenaustausch/incomings/orientierung/index.html
<i>Language requirements</i>	Level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages in either English or German
<i>Proof of foreign language skills</i>	Freie Universität Berlin does not check the language level of its students within the Overseas Programme. The Incoming Office trusts its partner universities to select only students who have language skills at the B2 level in either English or German.
<i>German language courses</i>	<u>Self-studies before arrival</u> Online training courses are provided by DUO, Deutsch-Uni Online: www.deutsch-uni.com <u>Intensive language course in Berlin prior to the lecture period</u> Intensive language courses (levels A2 - C1) are being held six weeks before the beginning of the winter term and the summer term. These are not free of charge. Students can obtain 6 ECTS-credits. More information: http://www.sprachenzentrum.fu-berlin.de/en/sprachangebot/sprachen/deutsch/vorkurs_deutsch/index.html <u>Language courses in Berlin during the lecture period</u> German language courses are offered during the winter semester and during the summer semester free of charge, but not for beginners. Students will have to take a placement test during the orientation week and will then be admitted to the courses according to their level of language skills (A 2 to C 1). http://www.sprachenzentrum.fu-berlin.de/sprachangebot/sprachen/deutsch/programmstudierende/index.html



<i>Course offer at the Law School</i>	course list for exchange students: http://www.jura.fu-berlin.de/en/international/studierendenaustausch/incomings/kurse/index.html
<i>Course selection requirements</i>	Overseas exchange students have a free course choice. There are no mandatory courses. Students can take courses according to their individual interest and according to the rules set by their home university.
<i>Study level</i>	undergraduate / graduate / doctoral -undergraduate students and graduate students can take courses from the 1 st to the 4 th year of legal education -doctoral students may take courses from the 1 st to the 4 th year of legal education (there are no particular courses for doctoral students) and/or may work on an individual research project at the library (A supervision of the thesis by a professor of Freie Universität Berlin cannot be provided though, and credits cannot be assigned by the Law Department of Freie Universität Berlin.)
<i>Course restrictions</i>	Exchange students are not allowed to take part in the courses for our English-taught Masters' Program in International and European Business, Competition and Regulatory Law (MBL).
<i>Courses outside the Law School for incoming exchange students</i>	- students in the Law-School-to-Law-School-exchange program: unfortunately not - students in the university-wide exchange program (direct exchange): yes (please make sure that you get enrolled for all study programs you wish to take courses from)
<i>Maximum workload per semester</i>	The maximum number of ECTS-credits from courses taught in a language other than German is 30 per semester. There is no limitation of ECTS-credits for German-taught courses. If students take a mixture of German-taught courses and courses taught in another language, the number of ECTS-credits stemming from non-German-taught courses shall not exceed 30 ECTS-credits per term.
<i>Contact hours per course</i>	2 per week for English-taught law courses (exceptions possible) 2 – 6 per week for German-taught law courses A few law courses are being held as intensive courses. 2 - 6 per week for German language courses



<i>No. of credits per course</i>	5 for English-taught courses (exceptions possible) 5 – 10 for German-taught courses (exceptions possible) details can be found in the course descriptions: http://www.jura.fu-berlin.de/en/international/studierendenaustausch/incomings/kurse/index.html
<i>Grading scale for law studies</i>	0 – 18 points best performance: 18 points passing grades: 4 – 18 points for details please see: http://www.jura.fu-berlin.de/en/international/studierendenaustausch/incomings/noten/index.html
<i>Course registration / add- and drop period</i>	Students have to sign up for courses via Campus Management. registration period for courses with a limited number of places: two weeks from early October and/or from early April registration period for courses without a limited number of places: five weeks from early October and/or from early April drop period: five weeks from early October and/or from early April exceptional drop period (with a valid cause): until 14 days prior to exams The course-booking procedure will be demonstrated during our orientation weeks. Exact dates and deadlines can be found at: http://www.jura.fu-berlin.de/en/international/studierendenaustausch/incomings/cm/index.html
<i>Accommodation / housing options</i>	A limited number of places in student residences, shared flats and single apartments can be booked from the ERG University Housing Service at: http://www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/unterbringung/index.html All housing options are available from the beginning of September and/or from the beginning of March onwards and cost about 450 - 850 EUR per month. Students wishing to use this service, must apply online as soon as possible and no later than December 10 or June 10 using the link above. Registrations will be dealt with on a first come, first served basis. However, many students live in shared flats that they find on the private housing market: http://www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/unterbringung/individuell/index.html





<i>Meal plan</i>	Student accommodation is not linked to a fixed meal plan in Berlin.
<i>Cost of rent</i>	<u>Housing options booked from the ERG University Housing Service:</u> 300 – 900 EUR per month (water, electricity and heating included; TV-fee sometimes included) <u>Shared apartment on the private housing market:</u> 350 – 500 EUR per month (water and heating included)
<i>Additional fees</i>	ca. 270 EUR per semester for social fees and for the semester ticket The semester ticket for public transport is valid from 1 October through 31 March (winter term) and from 1 April through 30 September (summer term). It can be used in all metros, city trains, buses, trams, and ferries. Students will be asked to pay those fees after arrival in Berlin as part of the enrollment process.
<i>Living / prospective costs</i>	<u>Costs per month:</u> Rent: 400 – 900 EUR Gas and electricity (if necessary): 40 – 50 EUR Telecommunications (telephone, internet, TV-fee): 50 EUR Food: 400 – 500 EUR Health insurance (if necessary): 130 EUR <u>Costs per semester:</u> Books and copies: 50 EUR for statutory provisions and copy card (textbooks are available in the library and do not have to be bought) Local transportation: 200 EUR Social fees at the university: 65 EUR <u>One-time costs:</u> Reservation fee for accommodation in a student residence: 500 - 1.145 EUR (partly used as a security deposit) Security deposit for other accommodation: 500 – 2.200 EUR Visa (if necessary): 60 EUR Residence permit (if necessary): up to 80 EUR <u>Additional Costs:</u> Entrance fees for clubs: 10 – 15 EUR Drinks at bars: 4 – 8 EUR Main dishes at (not too fancy) restaurants: 10 – 12 EUR Snacks to go (Currywurst, Döner, etc.): 4 - 8 EUR Entrance fees for sightseeing: 5 – 12 EUR



Medical coverage

All students must provide a proof of comprehensive health insurance coverage for the exchange semester or the exchange year before they can enroll at a German university and before they can get a residence permit, if necessary. Students who either have the European Health Insurance Card (EU and EEA students only) or who can provide proof of an adequate comprehensive health insurance valid in Germany (unlimited in case of illness and rescue) may request an insurance waiver. A waiver can only be obtained at a German state-regulated health insurance company, not at the university. However, it has been increasingly difficult for non-European Insurance Card holders to get such a waiver, since many insurance policies purchased outside Germany require substantial co-payments, have caps or exclude many illnesses. We therefore urge all students younger than 30 years to purchase a German student health insurance for about 130 EUR per month. The German health insurance policies are very comprehensive and are also accepted automatically by the office granting residence permits.

More information is available at: [Health Insurance • Education • Freie Universität Berlin \(fu-berlin.de\)](#)

Visa

Students should first find out through the website of German Missions abroad http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/Startseite_node.html if they need a visa or not.

If they are a national of a country whose citizens need a visa, they must get a study visa at the German Embassy or Consulate in their home countries prior to their departure. It is not possible to apply for a study visa in Berlin! All students who need a letter of acceptance for their visa application are requested to contact the FU Student Exchange Office via incoming@fu-berlin.de. We urge those students to apply for a visa as soon as possible. It can sometimes take a few months to process the visa application. More information is available at: [Study Visa • Education • Freie Universität Berlin \(fu-berlin.de\)](#)

<i>Residence permit</i>	Once students have been enrolled at Freie Universität Berlin, they must apply for a residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis) within three months (except students from EU or EEA countries). Students will be provided with detailed information and assistance upon admission via Distributed Campus. More information is available at: https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/international/studium_fu/einreise_aufenthalt/ufenthaltserlaubnis/index.html
<i>Important notice for scholarship holders</i>	The formal duration of each semester at Freie Universität Berlin is six months (October through March and April through September). However, the actual study period which is relevant for an exchange student's scholarship is considerably shorter. Scholarship-awarding organizations usually make their final account on the basis of a study period confirmation issued by Freie Universität Berlin at the end of the study abroad period. In this study period confirmation we can only confirm a student's attendance from the first day of the intensive language course or from the first day of the orientation period through the last day of the lecture period or through the day of the last exam.
<i>Campus facilities</i>	WLAN, library with computer rooms, lockers, cafeteria, vegetarian student restaurant, student-run café
<i>Disabilities or chronic illnesses</i>	The university provides confidential advice for students with a prolonged or permanent health impairment or with disabilities. Office for Students with Special Needs: Tel.: +49 30 83 85 48 32 https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/service/behinderung/index.html
<i>Social/psychological support</i>	The Center for Academic Advising and Psychological Counselling of Freie Universität Berlin offers between three and five appointments for psychological counselling to students: psychologische-beratung@fu-berlin.de The university does not provide psychotherapy. The Berlin Crisis Service offers a multilingual, fast and professional assistance for acute mental and psychiatric emergencies. The service is free of charge and available all year long: Tel.: +49 30 3 90 63 00



<i>Emergencies</i>	Like most German universities, Freie Universität Berlin does not offer a specific 24/7 emergency hotline. In case of a physical emergency, you can enter the emergency room of any hospital or use the following emergency phone numbers: Police: 110 Ambulance: 112 On-call medical service: +49 30 31 00 31 Poison Control Center: +49 30 1 92 40
<i>National crises</i>	In case of major public security incidents, the university will follow the orders of the local and national security authorities. The Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance offers a German website https://warnung.bund.de/ and an app https://www.bbk.bund.de/DE/Warnung-Vorsorge/Warn-App-NINA/warn-app-nina_node.html for national alerts.

